

## REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the following discussion and in view of the present amendment, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 13, 15, 27, and 29 have been amended herein. Claims 30 and 32-33 have been cancelled herein. Claims 1-4, 9-13, 15-18, 23-27, and 29 are pending and under consideration.

This amendment is believed to place the application in condition for allowance, and entry therefore is respectfully requested. In the alternative, entry of this amendment is requested as placing the application in better condition for appeal by, at least, reducing the number of issues outstanding.

### Entry of Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

The Applicant requests entry of this Rule 116 Response because the amendment does not significantly alter the scope of the claims and places the application at least into a better form for purposes of appeal. No new features or new issues are being raised.

The Manual of Patent Examining Procedures (M.P.E.P.) sets forth in Section 714.12 that “any amendment that would place the case either in condition for allowance or in better form for appeal may be entered.” Moreover, Section 714.13 sets forth that “the Proposed Amendment should be given sufficient consideration to determine whether the claims are in condition for allowance and/or whether the issues on appeal are simplified.” The M.P.E.P. further articulates that the reason for any non-entry should be explained expressly in the Advisory Action.

### REJECTION OF CLAIMS 32-33 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 32-33 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Avraham, U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2004/0103238.

Claims 32-33 have been cancelled. Accordingly, withdrawal of the § 102(e) rejection is respectfully requested.

### REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-4, 9-13, 15-18, 23-27 and 29-30 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Independent claims 1, 13, 15, 27, 29-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weber, U.S. Patent No. 5,937,174 in view of Hauck, U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2003/0158999, in further view of Avraham.

For example, the cited prior art, alone or in combination, does not discuss or suggest:

the plurality of second modules includes at least two second modules that are set in mirror relation to each other, a first one of the at least two second modules including management means for managing information on a second one of the at least two second modules and for managing an association information between a master area address in the cache memory of the first one of the at least two second modules and a mirror area address in the cache memory of the second one of the at least two second modules,

said first module including address designation means for producing addressing information to designate two written-in destinations for writing data received from the external apparatus to be written through said bridge module into said cache memories of the at least two second modules, the address designation means of the first module producing the addressing information based on the association information acquired from the management means of the first one of the at least two second modules,

as recited in amended claim 1. In other words, the invention of claim 1 provides for performing mirroring by concurrently writing the same data into different areas of the cache memories of a plurality of management modules (claimed second modules). In this manner, a first management module manages an address of a mirror area on the cache memory of a second management module, which has a mirror relationship with the first management module, in association with the address of the cache area of the first management module. Furthermore, the host interface module (claimed first module) acquires association cache information of a management module so that a single information acquisition from a single management module makes it possible for the host interface module to acquire cache information from a plurality of management modules. As such, a single forwarding data and address information that have been received from the host (claimed external apparatus) writes data into different areas on caches at the same time, thereby providing a more efficient manner of data forwarding.

None of the cited prior art discloses these features of claim 1, for example, and the remaining independent claims contain similar features, such that claims 1, 13, 15, 27, and 29 each patentably distinguish over the cited combination of references.

A withdrawal of these § 103(a) rejections and favorable reconsideration of claims 1, 13, 15, 27, and 29 are respectfully requested.

Claims 2-4, 9-12, 16-18, and 23-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over the combined teachings of Weber, Hauck, Avraham and in further view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2002/0016898 by Hashimoto et al.

Claims 2-4 and 9-12 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1 and include all the features of that claim plus additional features which are not taught or suggested by the prior art. Therefore, it is submitted that claims 2-4 and 9-12 patentably distinguish over the prior art.

Claims 16-18 and 23-26 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 15 and include all the features of that claim plus additional features which are not taught or suggested by the prior art. Therefore, it is submitted that claims 16-18 and 23-26 patentably distinguish over the prior art.

SUMMARY

It is submitted that the claims continue to be allowable. It is further submitted that the claims are not taught, disclosed or suggested by the prior art. The claims are therefore in a condition suitable for allowance. An early Notice of Allowance is requested.

If any further fees, other than and except for the issue fee, are necessary with respect to this paper, the U.S.P.T.O. is requested to obtain the same from deposit account number 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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